

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-6, 9, 11, 14, 16-21, and 23-25 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 22, and 26 have been amended. No new matter has been entered as a result of these amendments.

Allowable Claims

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 27-37 and 64-84 are allowed, as well as indicating that claims 3-6, 8-9, 11-21 and 23-25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including any intervening claims. Claims 8, 12, and 15 have been rewritten in independent form, and the remaining rejected claims have either been canceled or amended to depend from allowable claims. Thus, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Anticipation Rejection

Claims 1-2, 7, 10, 22 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Thomson et al. (U.S. Statutory Invention Registration No. H188). Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. However, in the interest of advancing prosecution, objected to claims 8, 12, and 15 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-6, 9, 11, 14, 16-21, and 23-25 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 7, 10, 13, 22, and 26 have been amended to depend from allowed claims. As such, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

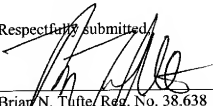
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If a teleconference might be of value, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 359-9348.

Application Serial No. 10/748,398

Respectfully submitted,

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